

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON BILL NO. **S. 443**

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TO:	The Honorable Glenn McConnell, Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee		
FROM:	Office of State Budget, Budget and Control Board		
ANALYSTS:	R.J. Stein, Bryce Wilson, Torina Wood, Rodney Grizzle		
DATE:	May 14, 2007	SBD:	2007357

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AUTHOR:	Senator Ford	PRIMARY CODE CITE:	44-7-65
SUBJECT:	Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation Prohibited		

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ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:

Minimal (Some additional costs expected but can be absorbed)

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON FEDERAL & OTHER FUND EXPENDITURES:

\$0 (No additional expenditures or savings are expected)

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**BILL SUMMARY:**

Senate Bill 443 amends various Sections of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, by prohibiting discrimination on the basis of a person's sexual orientation or gender identity. The Bill requires health care facilities to develop a protocol allowing a patient to designate any individual as an authorized visitor, regardless of blood or legal relationship.

**EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:**

The Departments of Health & Environmental Control and Mental Health as well as the Employment Security Commission and the Medical University of South Carolina each indicate this Bill would have no impact on the General Fund of the State, or on Federal and/or Other Funds. The Judicial Department anticipates a minimal impact which should be absorbed by the agency at the current level of funding.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT IMPACT:**

None.

**SPECIAL NOTES:**

None.

Approved by:



Harry Bell  
Assistant Director, Office of State Budget